

Message Text

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D:JACKLYN CAHILL

S/S:M. TANNER

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P R 230124Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL ADANA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, TU

SUBJECT: CONTINENTAL GRAIN DISPUTE

1. THEODORE C. SORENSEN HAS TALKED TO DEPUTY SECRETARY
ROBINSON AND HAS WRITTEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN ON BE-
HALF OF CONTINENTAL GRAIN REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSIS-
TANCE IN RESOLVING THAT FIRM'S LONG-STANDING CLAIM AGAINST
THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT AGENCY TOPRAK. SORENSEN SUGGESTED
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THAT HE AND CONTINENTAL CHAIRMAN ROY FOLCK WOULD BE WILLING

TO TRAVEL TO ANKARA TO DISCUSS CASE IF A MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND INDICATED THAT CONTINENTAL WOULD BE WILLING TO COMPROMISE IF SUCH A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT COULD BE "CERTAIN AND SWIFT." CONTINENTAL CLEARLY IS NO LONGER WILLING TO AWAIT THE RESULT OF TOPRAK'S APPEAL OF THE GAFTA ARBITRATION AWARD IN FAVOR OF CONTINENTAL.

2. IN HIS LETTER, SORENSEN POINTED OUT THE POSSIBLE APPLICATION OF THE HICKENLOOPER AND GONZALEZ AMENDMENTS (22 U.S.C. S 2370 (E) (1) (B) AND 22 U.S.C. S 284 (J) SUSPENDING U.S. AID TO TURKEY IN ANY FORM AND REQUIRING THE US TO OPPOSE IBRD AND IDA LOANS TO TURKEY IF TURKEY FAILS TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO DISCHARGE ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW TOWARD CONTINENTAL. HE ALSO NOTED

CONGRESSIONAL IMPLICATIONS. WHILE DEPARTMENT LAWYERS WOULD NOT AGREE THAT HICKENLOOPER AND GONZALEZ AMENDMENTS WERE INTENDED TO APPLY TO THIS KIND OF BREACH-OF-CONTRACT DISPUTE, THERE IS DEFINITELY A GSP QUESTION UNDER S 502 (B) (6) OF THE TRADE ACT.

3. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES WE SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN RESPONDING TO THIS NEW CONTINENTAL INITIATIVE. EMBASSY VIEWS WOULD THEREFORE BE APPRECIATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING A MEETING FOR SORENSEN AND FOLCK WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND, FAILING THAT, POSSIBLE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES.

4. COPIES OF SORENSEN LETTER AND HARTMAN REPLY BEING POUCHED FOR EMBASSY INFORMATION.

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